

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for preventing T cell mediated tissue destruction associated with type I diabetes comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a prophylactically effective amount of a gp39 antagonist selected from the group consisting of soluble CD40, CD40 fusion protein, and an anti-gp39 antibody, or a fragment thereof that binds gp39, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody or fragment binds to an epitope ~~which is specifically bound by~~ recognized by a monoclonal antibody produced by 24-31 hybridoma, ATCC Accession Number HB 11712, and ~~further wherein~~ tissue destruction results from a T cell mediated immune reaction to an autoantigen.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the gp39 antagonist is an anti-gp39 antibody.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is an anti-human gp39 antibody.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is 24-31.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a chimeric monoclonal antibody containing constant regions and variable regions from different species.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method for preventing a T cell mediated tissue destruction ~~autoimmune response~~ associated with type I diabetes comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a prophylactically effective amount of a gp39 antagonist which is an anti-gp39 antibody or a gp39-binding fragment thereof, which antibody or fragment comprises a hypervariable region of monoclonal antibody 24-31 (ATCC Accession Number HB 11712).

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the gp39 antagonist is a gp39-binding antibody fragment.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the gp39-binding antibody fragment is a Fab or F(ab')₂ fragment.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the chimeric monoclonal anti-gp39 antibody comprises a variable region of monoclonal antibody 24-31.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the humanized monoclonal anti-gp39 antibody comprises a hypervariable region of monoclonal antibody 24-31.

20-21. (Canceled)